



474179

## Proposed Restoration Projects

Use of NRDA Funds from a Bankruptcy Related to  
Portage Creek and Operable Unit 1  
for the Allied Paper Property, Allied Paper, Inc. /  
Portage Creek / Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

Public Meeting  
May 1, 2012  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Kalamazoo Natural Resource Trustee Council

## Who Are the Members of the Natural Resource Trustee Council?

- ▶ The Natural Resource Trustee Council consists of agencies authorized under federal and Michigan law to seek environmental restoration
  - Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
  - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
  - Michigan Attorney General
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



## What is NRDA?

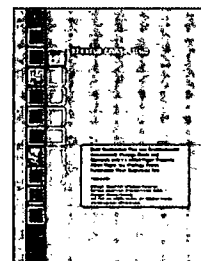
- ▶ A process that the Trustees use to:
  - assess injuries to natural resources that have been caused by releases of hazardous substances
  - plan and conduct restoration actions that can compensate for injuries
- ▶ The purpose is to make the public whole, beyond site cleanup
- ▶ The responsible party is required to provide for restoration
- ▶ This Trustee Council has been working on the Kalamazoo River NRDA since 2000
  - Assessment plan and reports
  - Input on cleanup projects
  - Restoration projects compiled
  - Selection criteria developed

(<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/KalamazooRiver/>)



## Restoration Planning: What is an RP/EA?

- ▶ A Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment is a document intended to:
  - Describe the selection of potential restoration projects that can serve as compensation for injuries to natural resources
  - Notify the public about these potential projects
  - Help with coordination between agencies to ensure that proposed restoration actions will not conflict with proposed remedial actions
- ▶ The Trustee agencies are asking for your comments on this RP/EA

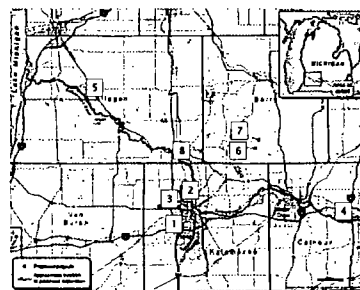


Oct 1 Note: Comments received were largely supportive. Expect to finalize document within weeks.

## What Restoration Projects Are the Trustees Proposing?

- ▶ In the Kalamazoo River Watershed
- ▶ May be implemented with available funding
- ▶ The Trustees screened projects using our restoration criteria so that projects would be:
  - Feasible and comply with applicable laws and regulations
  - Focused on restoring the types of resources that were injured
  - Likely to be successful and generate quantifiable benefits
- ▶ Priority was given to projects that
  - Improve aquatic and riparian habitat
  - Protect and enhance habitat (including upland, wetland, and riparian)
  - Are nearer to and most like Portage Creek corridor

## Proposed Projects



## 1. Alcott Street Dam

**Description:** Remove Alcott Street Dam

**Location:** Portage Creek

**Benefits:**

- Improve connectivity of aquatic habitat
- Allow access for fish to quality upstream habitat
- Build on success of Performance Paper restoration project

**Priority:** High

Alcott Street Dam



Source: M. Durham, MDEQ



## 2. Urban Nature Park

**Description:** Reestablish native vegetation in former brownfield sites and provide public access, with Kalamazoo Nature Center

**Location:** Along Portage Creek in Kalamazoo

**Benefits:**

- Improve upland and wetland habitat for birds, fish, and other species
- Connect habitat and people

**Priority:** High

Approximate location of proposed park (red) and Portage Creek (blue)



Source: Bing Maps, 2011

## 3. Wetland Creation

**Description:** Replace existing fill near creek with created wetland

**Location:** Bronson Hospital Property, Portage Creek\*

**Benefits:**

- Create valuable wetland habitat
- Improve connectivity between stream and floodplain
- Create floodplain storage in channelized section of creek

**Priority:** High

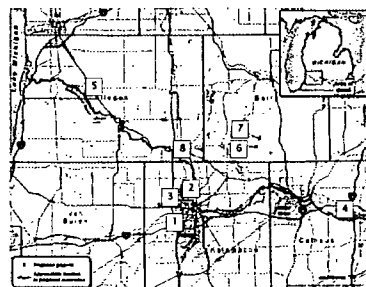
View from Lake St. Bridge



Source: L. Williams, USFWS

\*Currently being used as a staging area for EPA's Time-Critical Removal Action.

## Proposed Projects



## 4. Wetland Restoration

**Description:** Reestablish native wetlands and natural streambanks

**Location:** Rice Creek

**Benefits:**

- Improve hydrological connectivity between creek and floodplain
- Reduce creek velocity
- Build on community efforts
- Improve wetland habitat for fish, birds, invertebrates, other species

**Priority:** Medium

Rice Creek Watershed Land Cover Map



Source: Rice Creek Management Plan

Watershed Partnership Trout Habitat Project



Source: Partnership Project Fact Sheet

## 5. Riparian Habitat Preservation

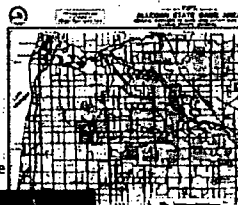
**Description:** Acquire and preserve riparian habitat

**Location:** To be determined along Kalamazoo River downstream of Lake Allegan

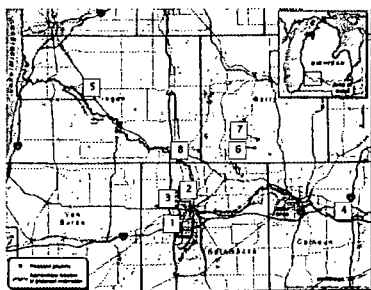
**Benefits:**

- Protect riparian habitat
- Provide benefits to birds and other wildlife

**Priority:** Medium



## Proposed Projects



## 6. Upland Habitat Preservation

**Description:** Acquire and preserve land under threat of development

**Location:** Pitchfork Valley, headwaters of Augusta Creek

**Benefits:** Protect upland habitat proximal to lakes that feed Augusta Creek

**Priority:** Low



Source: Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

## 7. Hardwood Forest Protection

**Description:** Acquire and protect upland hardwood forest habitat

**Location:** Next to Fair Lake, about 15 miles northeast of Kalamazoo

**Benefits:**

- ▶ Protect upland forests that provide habitat for birds, mammals, and other species
- ▶ Provide indirect benefits to Fair Lake and Augusta Creek

**Priority:** Low



## 8. Upland Habitat Preservation

**Description:** Acquire and protect upland oak-hickory hardwood forest habitat, open grasslands, wetlands, and ponds

**Location:** North of Lake Doster in Gunplain Township, north of Kalamazoo

**Benefits:** Protect habitats that benefit abundant wildlife in this intact upland/wetland complex

**Priority:** Low

Example of oak-hickory hardwood forest (not project location)



Source: USFWS

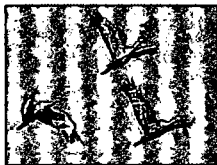
## Summary

- ▶ Bankruptcy funds available now for restoration
- ▶ Trustees collected project ideas
  - Ranked on NRDA criteria
  - Focused on Portage Creek and OUI injuries
  - Considered available funding
  - Considered cleanup actions completed and planned
- ▶ Restoration Plan / EA available for your review

## Where Do We Go from Here?

- ▶ Public review and comments are welcome!
  - Comments due June 1, 2012
- ▶ RP/EA is available for public review:
  - Websites:
    - [www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/KalamazooRiver/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/KalamazooRiver/)
    - [www.dnrp.noaa.gov/greatlakes/kalamazoo/](http://www.dnrp.noaa.gov/greatlakes/kalamazoo/)
    - [www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311\\_4109\\_4217-84646--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3311_4109_4217-84646--,00.html)
  - Local libraries (see fact sheet for locations)
  - Paper copies available by request
- ▶ Trustees will review comments
  - Consider changes to RP/EA
  - Re-issue a new draft or finalize RP/EA
- ▶ Begin restoration

## Discussion



### Contacts:

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